

County. During the past four years he has served honorably as County Commissioner, where his diligent work helped to bring the county into this technological age. Before becoming Commissioner, he served as Clerk and Recorder for over two decades, again, with great distinction.

Mr. Martinez has served his community admirably and his dedication and drive to succeed will be missed.

Roy, you have made your community, state and nation proud. I commend you on your service to the citizens of Costilla County and I wish you the best in your future endeavors.

RELIGIOUS WORKER VISAS

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my support of H.R. 1871, the Mother Teresa Religious Worker Act of 1999, by adding my name as a cosponsor. H.R. 1871 is an important bill that permanently extends the religious worker visa program, which is set to expire at the end of this month. Under the current program, 5,000 religious workers enter the United States each year to participate in spiritual and charitable work in communities throughout our country, including many communities in my native California.

The visa program allows religious organizations to sponsor non-minister religious workers from foreign countries. These volunteers often work with our most needy individuals through church programs to ensure they have shelter and food. Aside from assisting with the bare necessities, they minister to the sick, work with adolescents at risk, and assist refugees and immigrants when they first arrive in the United States.

This program is due to expire on September 30 of this year. I call upon my colleagues to extend this religious worker visa program before this date to avoid any disruption for those seeking to enter our country.

At the same time, both the Department of State and the Immigration and Naturalization Service have expressed concerns that the religious worker visa program is vulnerable to fraud. I share many of these concerns. Therefore, as this legislation moves through Congress, we must address the issues raised by the State Department and INS and ensure that only those persons who perform religious work enter on these visas.

I urge the permanent extension of the religious worker visa program at the earliest possible date.

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHLAND YWCA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the fortieth anniversary of the Southland YWCA. This non-profit organization has been serving women and their families in the Southwest area of Cleveland since 1919, and it deserves our recognition and congratulations.

The Southland YWCA in Middleburg Heights, Ohio is commemorating its 40th Anniversary on September 8 and 9, 2000. These two days of celebration should prove to be embraced throughout the community, as women and their families show their appreciation for an organization that has continually served the people of its area with a large variety of beneficial programs.

In 1960, the Southland YWCA moved to its current location in Middleburg Heights, Ohio, and it has continued to serve families in the area ever since. The Southland YWCA serves the Southwest area of Cleveland in the areas of fitness, child care, and diversity programming, among many others. It has implemented many programs and activities for the community, including swimming lessons, summer day camp for children, exercise classes, karate lessons, homemaking lessons, craft classes, divorce support programs, help for battered women, and even an investment club. Through these many services, the YWCA has encouraged women to become activists in their own communities.

I take their opportunity to applaud the fine service the Southland YWCA has provided to Cleveland for forty years because I believe that organizations such as this one are essential to the development of our communities throughout the country. I would like to wish the YWCA the best of luck in the future, and hope to see the organization commended again forty years from now.

REVEREND MONSIGNOR GERARD T. LA CERRA DISTINGUISHED AND BELOVED CHANCELLOR AND FRIEND

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I note the passing of Reverend Monsignor Gerard T. La Cerra, one of South Florida's most beloved and distinguished residents.

With selfless devotion and love, Monsignor La Cerra served the Archdiocese of Miami not only as its Chancellor from 1978 to 1993, but also as a source of strength and inspiration to all who knew him. Although we will all remember his important position in the Church for he was designated as Prelate with Honor with the title of Reverend Monsignor by His Holiness Pope John Paul II and was appointed Founding Supervising Principal of the new Catholic High School in South Dade, Archbishop Coleman F. Carroll High, we will remember most his extraordinary acts of kindness to the people of South Florida.

We were fortunate to have Monsignor La Cerra and the love and kindness that he expressed to our community and our church will forever be remembered and cherished. My office and the rest of the South Florida Congressional delegation had the opportunity to get to know Monsignor La Cerra more closely and to retribute some of the work he did for his parish by organizing an effort to increase public awareness on the need for organ transplant and donations. He underwent a successful heart transplant surgery and was able to continue his work in the Archdiocese of Miami.

I ask my Congressional colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this devoted spiritual leader and to express our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends, may they find peace and comfort in the knowledge that he made significant differences in the many lives he touched. He will forever be remembered.

HONORING PAT LATRONICA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a very distinguished woman, Pat LaTronica of Pueblo, Colorado. Mrs. LaTronica passed away July 3, 2000 at the age of 62. She was best known for her work at a local restaurant as well as her charity work. With her warm heart and great eye for classy fashion, she brought a smile to patrons of her restaurant, no matter their age or background.

In addition to her work at the restaurant, Mrs. LaTronica was also an enthusiastic volunteer in her community. If it wasn't helping serve holiday dinners to those less fortunate, it was working hard on the board of directors of the Salvation Army. No matter the time of year, this wonderful woman could be found bringing smiles to the faces of citizens through her considerable volunteer efforts.

Mrs. LaTronica brought a spirit of joy to all of those around her no matter where or what she was doing. It is this sense of joy and happiness that will be missed, but not soon forgotten.

Ms. LaTronica was a great citizen and an even better person. She will be greatly missed by friends, family and the citizens of Pueblo.

IN HONOR OF THE UNION CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY, CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Housing Authority of Union City, New Jersey, celebrating a half-century of providing affordable housing to area families.

The 50th anniversary of the Union City Housing Authority is a wonderful cause for celebration. However, the real celebration lies in the extraordinary success the Authority has achieved in community building, which has led to its recognition as one of the top performing housing authorities in the nation.

This success has been accomplished through a clear understanding that building houses alone will not build communities. Compassion, hard work, dedication, and solid planning are the heart and mind of the Union City Housing Authority, and it is this heart and mind that builds prosperous communities.

When people envision public housing, they do not envision communities that provide for the spiritual and social needs of residents. Most picture dismal, neglected houses, empty streets, and residents disconnected from the mainstream.